

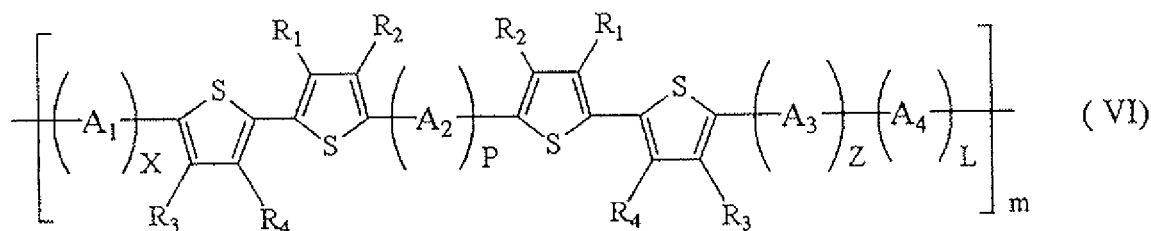
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1 to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A π -conjugated compound represented by

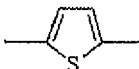
General Formula (VI) below:



where R_1 and R_2 are respectively hydrogen or a linear, cyclic, or branched alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of R_1 and R_2 being not hydrogen, and one or more of CH_2 of the alkyl group ~~may be~~ optionally replaced by O, CO, S, or NH; R_3 and R_4 are respectively hydrogen or a linear, cyclic, or branched perfluoroalkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of R_3 and R_4 being not hydrogen, and one or more of CF_2 of the perfluoroalkyl group ~~may be~~ optionally replaced by CH_2 , O, CO, S, or NH; A_1 and A_3 each represents a single bond, A_2 and A_4 each represents a thiophene ring; one or more of CH

groups in the ring ~~may be replaced by N, or may optionally~~ have a substituent; r is an integer of 1 to 10; X, Z, and L are respectively an integer of 0 to 20 provided that the sum X+Z+L is an odd number; Y is an even number of not more than 20; P is an odd number not more than 19; and m is an integer of 2 to 500.

20. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated compound according to claim 19, wherein X, Z, and L are respectively an integer of 0 to 6, Y is an even number of 6 or less, and P is an odd number of 5 or less.

21. (Previously Presented) The π -conjugated compound according to claim 19, where R_1 and R_2 each represents $C_{10}H_{21}$, R_3 represents C_8F_{17} , and R_4 represents H; A_2 and A_4 each represents ; X is 0, P is 1, Z is 0, and L is 1.

22. (Previously Presented) A conductive organic thin film containing the π -conjugated compound set forth in claim 19.